

FINAL

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

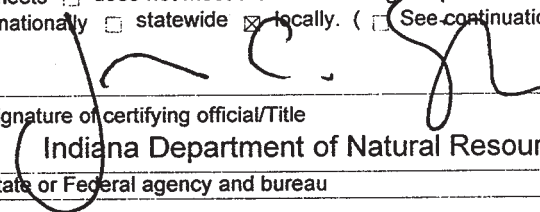
historic name Fountain County Clerk's Building
other names/site number Lew Wallace's Law Office 045-137-32060

2. Location

street & number 516 4th Street N/A not for publication
city or town Covington N/A vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Fountain code 045 zip code 47932

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

4-24-02
Date

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.

- ☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register

- ☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Fountain County Clerk's Building
Name of Property

Fountain IN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Government Office

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

OTHER: double pile

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Sandstone

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other WOOD

STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT _____

Period of Significance

1842-1859 _____

Significant Dates

1859 _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Unknown _____

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Fountain County Courthouse _____

Fountain County Clerk's Building _____
Name of Property

Fountain _____ IN _____
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	4	6	6	1	9	0	4	4	4	3	0	5	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

2

Zone		Easting						Northing						

3

Zone		Easting						Northing						

4

Zone		Easting						Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Ann Freese & Nancy J. Wagner

organization Fountain County Art Council, Inc. date 12-18-2001

street & number 301 4th Street, Courthouse telephone 765/ 793-2710 or 765/

city or town Covington state IN zip code 793-4432 47932

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
Fountain County Indiana
county and State

Construction of the County Clerk's Building was mandated by the Fountain County Commissioners to supplement the rapidly growing business of the county. The small brick courthouse on the square was too small. The County Clerk's Building would house the offices of the clerk, auditor, and recorder. Commissioner's minutes provide an exact floor plan and specifications. The site, according to these documents, was "directly east of the courthouse, fronting Fourth Street" on the courthouse yard or lawn. The 38 foot x 25 foot brick structure was to be built on a stone foundation, rising fifteen inches above the ground. Interior partition walls were specified to be brick, and the floors were to be brick over gravel and sand. The roof was to be tin or zinc laid over oak plank sheathing. Windows were specified to be fifteen lights, and all windows and doors were to have wood or iron shutters. Early newspaper ads for local attorneys indicate that two of the four rooms in the County Clerk's Building served as offices. Lew Wallace, a prominent Covington lawyer and author, used one of the offices. Wallace, Edward Hannegan and Daniel Voorhees each served as prosecuting attorney and conducted the court business in the County Clerk's Building.

When a fire in the courthouse necessitated building a new structure in 1859, the County Clerk's Building was offered for sale at public auction. County records show that the local dry goods merchant, Whitney Prescott, purchased it for \$95 and moved it north two blocks, to his lot, for use as a dwelling.

The County Clerk's Building is currently located at the west end of a 66 foot x 132 foot lot on the east side of Fourth Street in Covington. Fronting Fourth Street, the site is bound to the south and east by gravel alleys. A large brick dwelling abuts the lot to the north. When the County Clerk's Building structure was moved, the rear elevation became the front façade and has remained so for the past one hundred and forty-two years. The original front façade was covered with a shed-roofed, frame addition that provided a kitchen, back entry hall, and another small room, possibly used as a bedroom. The site has several mature deciduous trees and an expansive lawn to the east.

The side-gabled, one-story red brick structure is of the central passage style, three units wide and two units deep. It is set upon a stone foundation. The foundation is dressed on the west façade and laid in a random pattern on the north and south. The brick walls are laid in an American bond pattern, while the six-over-six double hung wood windows have a simple stone sill and lintel. The low pitched roof has a wide roof overhang with a band of plain wooden trim below. The building's only other decorative feature, a brick corbel, consists of three courses of brick each projecting one and one-half inches past the other and is located on the original front façade. The main entry door with a divided light transom is centrally located and covered by a partial width, wood porch on a stone foundation on the west façade. The porch has a flat jigsaw cut cornice and decorative brackets. A wood frame addition, one room deep on a concrete foundation, was added to the rear of the building at an unknown date after its move in 1859. The walls of the addition are painted fiberboard shingles. A side entrance is located to the north and a rear entrance is centrally located on the east elevation. The windows of the addition are a combination of various styles and materials.

The foundation under the original building appears to be in good condition. The exterior brick walls are in fair condition with some sections of spalling, cracking, and discoloration. Spalling can be seen on the north and south elevations centrally located under the pitch of the roof. Cracking in the mortar occurs above the former basement opening on the north side of the building. A crack has formed in the brick under the west window on the north elevation down into the foundation. Discoloration of the brick is found under the eaves of the east elevation and again centrally located under the pitch of the roof on the north and south. Limited areas of mortar are in need of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
Fountain County Indiana
county and State

repointing. The historic windows, with aluminum storms, are in good condition but need minor repairs and painting. The asphalt shingle roof on the original building is in fair condition while the aluminum gutters and round metal down spouts have detached along the west façade. The front porch, facing 4th Street, sits upon a concrete foundation with stone veneer and is accessed by a stairs of rough faced stone, all of which are in good repair. The tongue and groove wood plank floor is in poor condition. The wood members of the porch's bead board balustrade and cutout cornice have areas of rot and are in need of repainting. Two scrolled brackets are missing. The fluted square wood posts are in good condition. The entire rear wall of the addition is bowed and the roof has collapsed causing extensive water damage to the interior.

The interior of the original building is central passage style; two rooms wide and two rooms deep with a central hall. The interior is in fair condition. The two rooms at the front of the building are larger in size than the two to the rear. Thinly profiled flues, formerly used for stove heating, can be found centrally located on the south side. A partition wall with closets separates the rooms to the north. Wood plank floors cover the entire building. The simple wood baseboard found throughout the interior is painted. A variation of the baseboard is found along the closet wall between the two rooms to the north. The doors are wood paneled which vary in design throughout the house. The front door has six panels and a divided light transom. The plastered ceilings have some discoloration found throughout the building. The full basement, under the original structure, has a flagstone floor and a mortise and tenon wood beamed structure supporting the first floor. The walls are a combination of stone and brick.

A kitchen, an interior stair to the basement, and a bedroom are located in an addition added sometime after 1859. The wood addition to the rear has a floor level 14 inches lower than the original building and contained a kitchen, back entrance, entrance to the basement and another small room of undetermined use. Other alterations include a bathroom, accessed on the level with the original rooms, where the front (now rear) entrance was once located. The transom of the former door is still visible. The interior of the addition is in poor condition.

The building construction consists of masonry load-bearing exterior walls in the original building and wood stud walls in the addition. Interior walls are wood-framed in both. The original specifications called for masonry brick walls in the interior. A wood framed roof and floor system are present.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
Fountain County Indiana
county and State

Addendum to National Register Application for the Fountain County Clerk's Building: March 11, 2002

Due to the severe deterioration of the frame addition to the 1842 Clerk's Building, the Fountain County Art Council, Inc. had the addition removed on January 16, 2002. Exposure of the east wall of the existing brick building made it possible to see some changes that had been made after the main brick building was moved from the courthouse square.

A view of the exterior east brick wall shows the centrally located doorway with a recessed transom. The door itself has been discarded. There is an entry on both the north and south side of this doorway. The interior painted doors are the old double cross design with hand-forged iron hardware.

The 1842 Commissioner's minutes and drawing show two windows on each side of the original door. Examination of the brick facade and interior walls reveals their location and that the openings were filled in with brick. Hairline cracks, baseboard patches and other clues provide the evidence to indicate that the 1842 drawing was well followed by the builders. Three of the five openings on this side appear to exist in the proper location, the others will eventually be recreated.

A three brick wide corbel is present on both the north and south side of the east facade located directly beneath the roofline. It does not run the entire length of the roof line. Multi-colored plaster is evident on the brick walls. There are places where several bricks have been removed to form pockets to possibly hold joists for the shed roof of the frame addition. The foundation of large sandstone blocks is intact.

Removal of the frame addition has brought the building closer to its original configuration.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

 Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
 Fountain County Indiana
county and State

The County Clerk's Building in Covington, Indiana meets Criterion A because of the significant part it played in the development of Fountain County. Built in 1842 to serve as the Clerk's Office on the Courthouse Square, the original four-room brick structure witnessed events and touched the lives of persons both ordinary and pivotal in the government of Fountain County. It is the earliest surviving governmental building in the county, as well as in its region of Indiana. It still posses many early vernacular architectural elements that also make it eligible for consideration under Criterion C: vernacular, double-pile, central passage plan, simple brickwork, and intact interior woodwork. The Clerk's Office also meets Criterion Consideration B. Even though the commissioners sold it and a private owner moved it two blocks off the square in 1859, it merits listing because of its rarity as an early public structure. The Courthouse lawn where it stood is visible from its present site. Furthermore, a non-profit arts group plans to restore and reopen the structure to public enjoyment, thereby returning the Clerk's Office to an important role in the community.

Covington, the county seat, is located on the Wabash River, the major means of transportation for trappers, early immigrants and hunters who were moving into this fertile valley. This area was once occupied by the Potawatomi and Miami Indians. The county was formed from the existing counties of Montgomery and Wabash in 1825.

After 1823, a constant stream of immigration occurred with the settlers locating along the river and streams. Settlements were made up of families, relatives, and friends from the same communities who settled on adjoining tracts of land. Clearings were made and cabins were built. The majority of these settlers came from the Mid-Atlantic states. This background is reflected in the types/styles of structures built. After the log cabins came the prominence of the Federal style with central passage features.

The land on which the original town of Covington was laid out was owned by Isaac Coleman, a Virginian who located in Fountain County. He claimed 80 acres of land for the town. Generous donations of land were made to provide for government, education and religious functions. The town was platted in 1826. A governmental structure was immediately outlined with the election of county commissioners and circuit court judges. Despite some controversy and rivalry for the location of the seat of justice, Covington won out. The first order of business was to resolve a contested election for county clerk. In 1827, the commissioners ordered the building of a log courthouse on lot # 120 in Covington. In 1829, the commissioners thought that the county was wealthy enough to have a brick courthouse and they purchased 120,000 bricks. The new structure was completed in 1833. An earlier clerk's building was erected at a cost of \$40, to serve the log cabin courthouse. It was built by the clerk on his own lot with the understanding that when the county built a clerk's office on the public square, the clerk would refund the \$40 and keep the structure for himself.

Western expansion and a growing county population necessitated additional room for county government and in March 1842 an order was made, by County Commissioners, "for the erection of a building for the use of the clerk, recorder, and auditor on the public square, east of the courthouse, to front east, thirty-eight feet long and twenty-five feet wide. " This was erected and served as an adjunct county office building. Commissioner's minutes from 1842 to 1859 make several references to the County Clerk's Building.

Fountain County was progressive in building a separate structure for its records. The Indiana General Assembly voted in the 1850s to pass an act mandating counties to create rooms or buildings for records. At least fifty Indiana counties followed suit in the mid-1800s, building small brick or stone structures on courthouse lawns or nearby, for record storage. As fireproofing technology improved, the need for such buildings quickly vanished by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
Fountain County Indiana
county and State

the late 1800s. Although no specific survey exists, research and site visits by Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board member John Newman suggests that the Fountain County building is the only one of its kind to survive in any condition in Indiana.

The 1842-1859 period was an active and important time in the history of western Indiana. The County Clerk's Building on the lawn of the Fountain County Courthouse was the hub for it all. Land acquisitions, tax collections, deeds, marriage certificates, and legal proceedings were all filed or applied for there.

Covington was viewed as a growing, prosperous community that linked the east to the west. The completion of the Wabash and Erie Canal to Lafayette, Indiana in 1841 and the planned expansion to Terre Haute to the south meant additional growth for Covington. The canal was completed to Covington in 1846. The canal attracted many people and the community produced many notable citizens. Among these was a trio of attorneys who attained national prominence. Edward A. Hannegan, Lew Wallace, and Daniel Voorhees each served as Fountain County Prosecutor. Records of the business of the prosecutor and the court system were housed in the County Clerk's Building. The Honorable Judge V. E. Livengood addressed a community group in Covington on November 15, 1931, on the subject of the three attorneys and their impact on this county and the state. At that time, he related a story of Abraham Lincoln coming to Covington between 1840-44 to settle a claim at the courthouse before Judge Naylor. Lincoln was admitted to the county bar and after winning his case proceeded to the County Clerk's Building to settle the claim and then on to the cigar store.

Edward A. Hannegan (1807-1859) was born in Ohio; received his education in Kentucky, came to Covington and was admitted to the bar in 1831. His office was located on Fifth Street, north of Washington Street. He had a reputation as being friendly, highly eloquent and a powerful orator. His popularity soon led him to election as the prosecuting attorney, then to the State House and later to the U.S. Senate. One story that reflects his colorful personality relates that he led the citizens of Covington in an uprising against the town of Attica in a dispute over the canal locks on the Wabash and Erie Canal. This became known as the Covington-Attica War. Court documents show that he had compassion for children and raised several orphans while in Fountain County. In Congress, he was known for his fiery oratory and coined the phrase "54-40 or Fight" over the dispute with Britain for the Oregon Territory. After serving as Minister to Prussia, he came back to Covington to practice law and became friends with two young attorneys: Lew Wallace and Daniel Voorhees. Hannegan sought the Democratic nomination for president of the United States against Franklin Pierce. He had the support of nine states and was thought to win but his hopes were ended when, in a drunken rage, he killed his brother-in-law. The event took place in Covington during the wedding reception for Lew and Susan Wallace. Although absolved by his family, the county sought an indictment. Lew Wallace resigned his position as prosecuting attorney and moved to Crawfordsville to avoid having to prosecute his friend. Daniel Voorhees, Hannegan's law partner was unable or refused to seek an indictment and Hannegan soon moved out of state a broken man.

Lew Wallace (1827-1901) spent his early childhood in Covington, while his father, David, was lieutenant governor. According to his autobiography, Lew's formative years were spent along the Wabash River and the streets of Covington. His mother, Esther Test Wallace, died in Covington in 1834 and was buried in Covington's Oak Grove Cemetery. Lew and his brother were then taken to Indianapolis to live. Wallace came back to Covington in 1849 to open his first law office. He advertised for business in the county newspapers and referred to his office in the "county clerk's building." He also made reference to his friendship with county clerk, Joseph Ristine, who had an adjoining office. Wallace wrote to his brother with reference to his office in the County Clerk's Building. In 1853, after the tragic incident with his mentor, Edward Hannegan, Lew and Susan Wallace moved to Crawfordsville. He

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

 Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
 Fountain County Indiana
county and State

went on to be a state Senator, a Civil War General, the author of Ben Hur and other novels, a U.S. Senator, and the Minister to Mexico.

The third in the outstanding trio of legal entities was Daniel Voorhees (1827-1897), who was born in Ohio and came to Fountain county as an infant with his father. He attended Asbury College in Greencastle (now DePauw) and opened his law practice in Covington in 1850. Voorhees was referred to several times in Wallace's autobiography when they met to discuss and resolve issues at Wallace's office in the County Clerk's Building.

Heated discussions usually ended with the two taking up the fiddle to play out their frustrations. Voorhees attained national acclaim with his defense of the Indiana governor's brother-in-law, John Cook, in a criminal case. Cook was conspirator with John Brown at Harper's Ferry. Voorhees' eloquence made him popular and he was frequently called upon for difficult cases around the country. He served in the House of Representatives for five terms and then was appointed to the United States Senate to fill out an un-expired term. He was re-elected and served for nineteen years. He was fondly called "The Tall Sycamore of the Wabash." His primary contribution was his influence in the formation of the Library of Congress.

The continued growth of Fountain County and a fire in the old brick courthouse prompted the County Commissioners to advertise for bids and to award contracts for a new spacious court building that would include all offices. It was to stand in the middle of the public square, replacing the burned structure and the adjacent Clerk's Building. County documents housed in the Clerk's Building were saved from destruction as this building did not suffer any fire damage.

A special session of the County Commissioners was held in April 1856 for the purpose of making arrangements for disposition of the "remaining materials" of the courthouse and for procuring suitable rooms for the treasurer and court. Materials from the old courthouse that were salvageable were put up for sale at public auction on Tuesday, May 20, 1856 at 3 PM. In September of that year, specifications were completed for a new structure. The Commissioners agreed to rent the Presbyterian Church for its court procedures until the new building was ready.

County Commissioners' record books for the next three years reflect the steps and plans taken for the new court building. They indicate that 300,000 bricks were ordered and under the direction of J. Hardy and A. Henderson, a gothic style court building was erected with plans to open January 1, 1860.

The County Clerk's Building was offered at public auction on October 17, 1859. A local merchant was the successful bidder with a bid of \$95.00. Payment was decreed to be made by March 1, 1860. Merchant Whitney Prescott moved the Clerk's Building two blocks north of its original location, on the same street, to a cleared lot that he had recently purchased. The local newspaper, The People's Friend, made note of the move in its November 16, 1859 edition. Isaac Coleman, who laid out the original plat of 168 lots for the town, had platted an addition to the town in 1836 with lots being offered for sale in this rapidly growing community. Lot sizes were specified to be 66' wide x 132' deep. This addition was named Coleman's First Addition to The Town of Covington. Lot #95, the new home of the Clerk's Building, remains its original platted size bounded on the east and the south by city allies. The original abstract shows that this lot was owned by Mrs. Edward Hannegan. The Michael Mayer family purchased this and the adjacent lot and it remained in that family until it was sold by Margaret Mayer Kerr to the Fountain County Art Council, Inc. in July 2001.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
Fountain County Indiana
county and State

The brick Clerk's Building was moved without rotating it, so it still faced east in its new location. The new site, which was only two city blocks away from the courthouse, was undeveloped land. The central passage style with the front and back facades mirroring one another, enabled the new owner to easily convert the back (west) entry to the front. The corbelled front façade still faces the east. The building was placed close to Fourth Street on the west. At that time, a small porch was added on the west side with Victorian cut-out brackets. The new owner, at some point, added a frame addition to the east side to accommodate another room and a kitchen. After serving nearly twenty years for pioneer government, the Clerk's Building was converted to domestic use for the next one hundred and forty-two years.

The central passage floor plan was easily adapted from governmental use to domestic use. The four rooms are spacious and retain the early baseboard trim, large paneled doors and transoms. Plank floors replaced the brick floors specified for commercial use. One room has wood trim that reflects the 1860 period.

Despite minor changes and additions, the County Clerk's Building has maintained its basic integrity. The specifications laid out by the commissioners in 1842 for dimensions, size, and floor plan still exist. The characteristics of the central passage structure are still evident. The central doorway is flanked by two rooms on each side. There are internal chimneys on each gable end. A three brick cornice remains above the east entry. Mr. Prescott saw the possibilities of converting this solid little building into a dwelling.

The central passage architectural style and construction date has made the County Clerk's Building noteworthy as one of Covington's oldest structures. It has only been through recent research that the community has learned of its initial use and importance. The building remains reminiscent of the booming canal days of a previous time. It was the scene of many notable events and the meeting place of many men who left their mark on local, state, and national history. The County Clerk's Building was designated as "Notable" in the DNR Interim Report of Historic Sites and Structures Inventory published in 1988. Despite being relocated two blocks north, it remains visible from the courthouse lawn. Therefore, the property is being nominated for listing on the National Register for its historical significance to Covington, Fountain County and Indiana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

 Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
 Fountain County Indiana
county and State

Bibliography

BOOKS

Beckwith, H. W. History of Fountain County. (1881). Chicago, IL: H. H. Hill & N. Iddings Publishers. pp. 29, 37-48, 90-92, 102-104

Clifton, Thomas. Past and Present of Fountain and Warren Counties INDIANA. (1913). Indianapolis, IN: B. F. Bowen and Company. p. 66

Fountain County Centennial. (1926). Covington, IN: Daughters of American Revolution, Richard Henry Lee Chapter.

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory-Fountain County-Interim Report. (1988). Indianapolis, IN: Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. p. 52.

Jones, F. (1935). Edward A. Hannegan. (Master of Arts Dissertation, University of Chicago, Department of History)

Noble, Allen G. Wood, Brick and Stone, The North American Settlement Landscape, Volume 1: Houses. (1984) Amherst, MA: The University of Massachusetts Press. pp. 48-51.

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. (1993) New York: Alfred A. Knopf. pp 20-61.

Wallace, Lew. (1906) Lew Wallace: An Autobiography (Vols. I-II). New York: Harper and Brothers publishers. pp. 8-34, 206-231.

Whicker, J. Wesley. Historical Sketches of the Wabash Valley.(1916). Attica, IN: J. Wesley Whicker. 1916. pp 135-141.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wallace, Lew. [Letter to his brother, William Wallace.] August 23, 1850. Indiana Historical Society, 450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46202-3269.

INTERVIEW

Freese, Carol Ann. (August 21, 2001) [Interview with Joanne Spragg, Museum Coordinator/Historian, Ben-Hur Museum in Crawfordsville Indiana.] Fountain County Clerk's Building, Covington, IN 47932

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 2

 Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
 Fountain County Indiana
county and State

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS

Address By Hon. V. E. Livengood. (1931, November) Newspaper Unknown, Covington, IN

Advertisement for Lewis Wallace, Attorney. (1851, December 12). Constellation. Covington, IN.

Advertisement for Lew Wallace, Attorney. (1852, May 21). Constellation. Covington, IN.

Advertisement for Lew Wallace, Attorney. (1860, January) The People's Friend. Covington, IN.

Gone at last. (1859, November 16). The People's Friend. Covington, IN.

United States Senators from Indiana. (1899, June). The Indianian, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp 44-47.

COUNTY RECORDS

Commissioners' Record Book No. 2 November 1832 – December 1843. Covington, IN: Auditor of Fountain County. March 1842. pp 344-346.

Commissioners' Record Book No. 3 March 1844 – 1856. Covington, IN: Auditor of Fountain County. pp 357, 372, 432, 618-719, 623.

Commissioners' Record Book No. 4 November 1856 – January 1863. Covington, IN: Auditor of Fountain County. pp 168.

ABSTRACT

Abstract of Title. Lot # 95, Coleman's First Addition to the City of Covington #971016. Covington, IN: Douglass & Nelson Abstractors. 1847. [Update 2001].

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 3

 Fountain County Clerk's Building
name of property
 Fountain County Indiana
county and State

INTERNET

American National Biography; Dictionary of American Biography. Hannegan, Edward Allen, 1807-1859. October 30, 2001. <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

American National Biography; Dictionary of American Biography. Voorhees, Daniel Wolsey, 1827-1897. October 30, 2001. <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

Find A Grave – Edward Allen Hannegan. October 30, 2001. <http://www.findagrave.com>

Politicians Killed by Poison or Overdose. Edward Allen Hannegan (1807-1859). October 8, 2001. <http://politicalgraveyard.com/death/poison.html>

Wabash Valley Profiles. Edward Hannegan. November 20, 2001. <http://web.indstate.edu/community/vchs/wvp.htm>

Wabash Valley Profiles. Daniel Wolsey Voorhees. November 20, 2001. <http://web.indstate.edu/community/vchs/wvp/voorhees.htm>

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1 *Fountain County Clerk's Building, Fountain Co., IN*

Verbal Boundary Description

After being moved in 1859, the County Clerk's Building was sited on the west portion of Lot #95 in Coleman's First Addition to the City of Covington. The lot is 66' across the front (north to south) and 132' deep (east to west) and is situated on the east side of 4th Street.

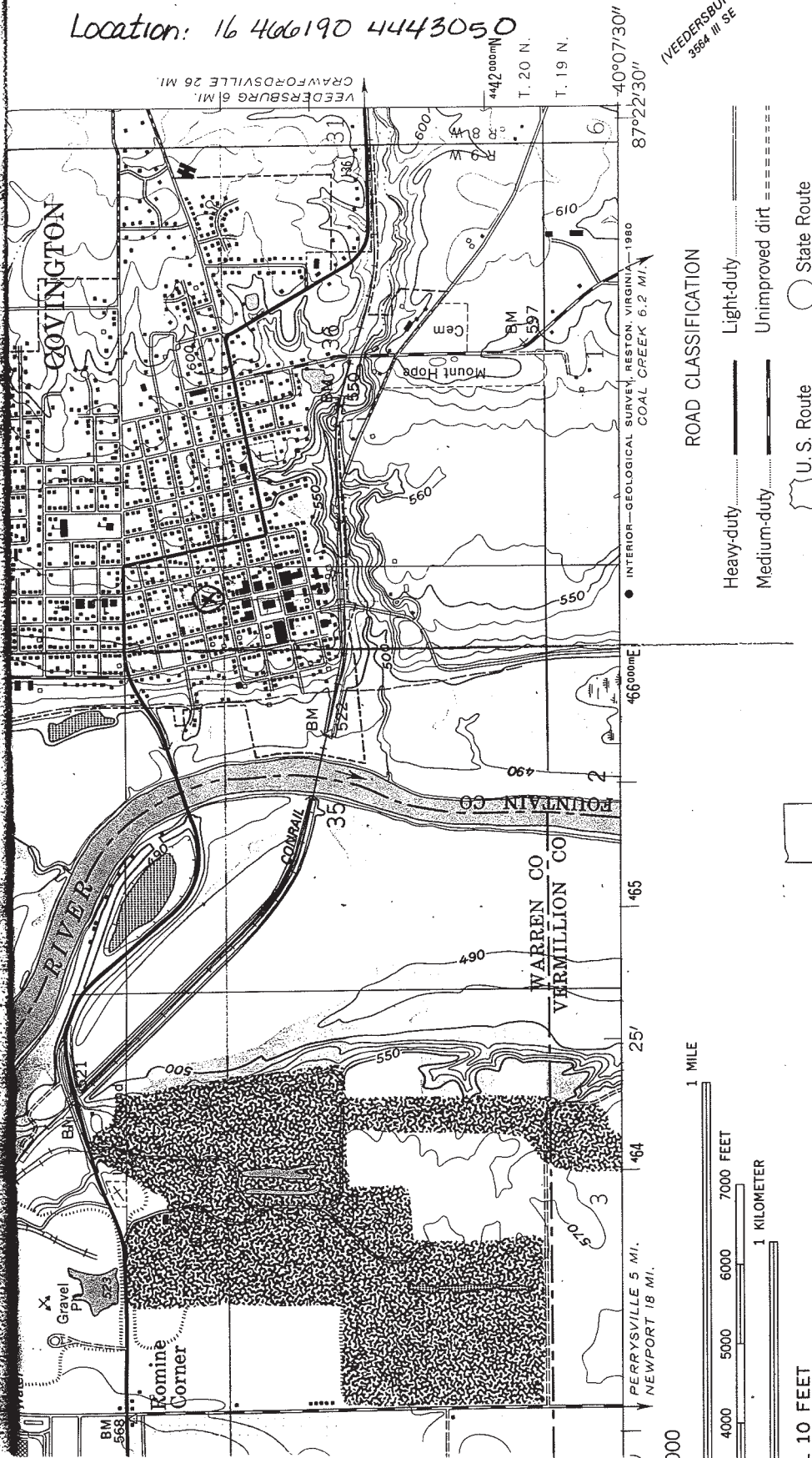
Boundary Justification

This is the property boundary that has been affiliated with the County Clerk's Building since being moved in 1859.

Fountain County Clerk's Building
516 4th Street, Covington, IN 47932
Fountain County, Indiana

Covington Quadrangle 44N 66E
R 9W T 20N Sec. 35

Location: 16 466190 4443050



COVINGTON, IND.

N 4007.5—W 8722.5 / 7.5

1958

PHOTOREVISED 1980

DMA 3564 III NW—SERIES V851

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Indiana agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980
Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest information available from the controlling authority

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

VEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

SOURCES, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

10 FEET

10-FOOT CONTOURS

1 DATUM OF 1929